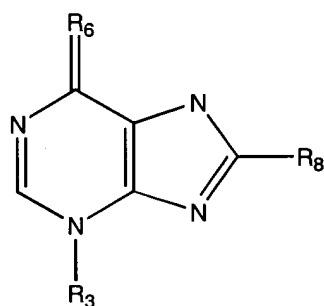


I. Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of the formula:



~~in an effective amount to inhibit the PDE IV enzyme upon administration to a human patient,~~
wherein;

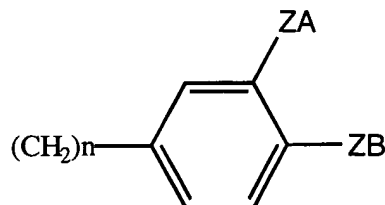
R₆ = S or O

R₃ is benzyl substituted at the 3 position by ZA and the 4 position by ZB selected from the group consisting of C₁–C₈ linear or branched alkyl; C₂–C₈ linear or branched alkene; C₂–C₈ linear or branched alkyne; C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl; Q; and K;

R₈ is selected from the group consisting of C₁ – C₈ linear or branched alkyl; C₂ – C₈ linear or branched alkene; C₂ – C₈ linear or branched alkyne; C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl; Q; and K;

wherein

Q has the general formula:



wherein;

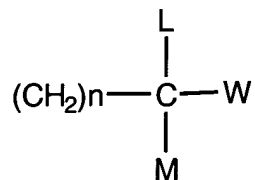
n = 0 or 1;

Z = a bond, CH₂, NH, O or S;

A and B can form a ring by adding 1-3 CH₂ groups when Z = CH₂, NH, O or S; and

A and B are not in a ring when Z = a bond, wherein A and B are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen; halogen; C₁ – C₈ alkyl; C₁ – C₈ alkoxy; C₃ – C₈ cycloalkyl; C₃ – C₈ cycloalkoxy; hydroxy; phenyl; benzyl; and benzyloxy; wherein said phenyl, benzyl and benzyloxy are optionally substituted with halogen, C₁ – C₈ alkyl, C₁ – C₈ alkoxy, C₃ – C₈ cycloalkyl, C₃ – C₈ cycloalkoxy and hydroxy;

K has the general formula:



wherein;

n = 0 or 1;

L and M are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and methyl;

W is selected from the group consisting of Q; hydroxy; benzyloxy optionally substituted with halogen, C₁ – C₈ alkyl, C₁ – C₈ alkoxy, C₃ – C₈ cycloalkyl, C₃ – C₈ cycloalkoxy and hydroxy; aryl; heteroaryl; and a heterocyclic ring;

provided that when R₃ is methyl, R₈ is not hydrogen;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof;

and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

Claim 2. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 wherein R₃ is benzyl.

Claim 3. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 wherein R₃ is benzyl substituted with an alkoxy and a cycloalkoxy group.

Claim 4. (previously presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein R₃ is benzyl substituted with benzyloxy.

Claim 5. (currently amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

- ~~3,8-diethyl-hypoxanthine;~~
- ~~3,8-diethyl-thiohypoxanthine;~~
- ~~3-ethyl-8-cyclopropyl-hypoxanthine;~~
- ~~3-ethyl-8-cyclopropyl-thiohypoxanthine;~~
- 3-(3-cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxy-benzyl)-8-(1-hydroxy-1-methyl-ethyl)-hypoxanthine;
- 3-(3-cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxy-benzyl)-8-(1-methyl-ethylene)-hypoxanthine;
- 3-(3-cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxy-benzyl)-8-(1-benzyloxy-1-methyl-ethyl)-hypoxanthine;
- 3-(3-cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxy-benzyl)-8-(benzyloxymethyl)-hypoxanthine;
- 3-(3-cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxy-benzyl)-8-(1-methyl-ethyl)-hypoxanthine;
- 3-(3-cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxy-benzyl)-8-(1-(4-methoxybenzyloxy)-1-methyl-ethyl)-hypoxanthine;
- 3-(3-cyclopentyloxy-4-methoxy-benzyl)-8-(1-(4-fluorobenzyloxy)-1-methyl-ethyl)-hypoxanthine;
- 3-(3-benzyloxy-4-methoxy-benzyl)-8-(1-benzyloxy-1-methyl-ethyl)-hypoxanthine;
- 3-(3-4-dimethoxy-benzyl)-8-(1-benzyloxy-1-methyl-ethyl)-hypoxanthine;
- 3-(3-benzyloxy-4-methoxy-benzyl)-8-(1-methyl-ethyl)-hypoxanthine;
- 3-(3-hydroxy-4-methoxy-benzyl)-8-(1-methyl-ethyl)-hypoxanthine;
- 3-(3-4-dimethoxy-benzyl)-8-(1-methyl-ethyl)-hypoxanthine;
- ~~3-(1,3-benzdioxole-5-methyl)-8-(1-methyl-ethyl)-hypoxanthine;~~
- 3-(4-chloro-benzyl)-8-(1-methyl-ethyl)-hypoxanthine;
- 3-(3-chloro-benzyl)-8-(1-methyl-ethyl)-hypoxanthine;

3-(4-methoxy-benzyl)-8-(1-methyl-ethyl)-hypoxanthine;
3-(3-4-dimethoxy-benzyl)-8-(1-(4-fluorobenzoyloxy)-1-methyl-ethyl)-hypoxanthine;
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

Claims 6-15. (cancelled)

Claim 16. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, selected from the group consisting of tablets, gelcaps, capsules, caplets, granules, and lozenges.

Claims 17-21. (cancelled)